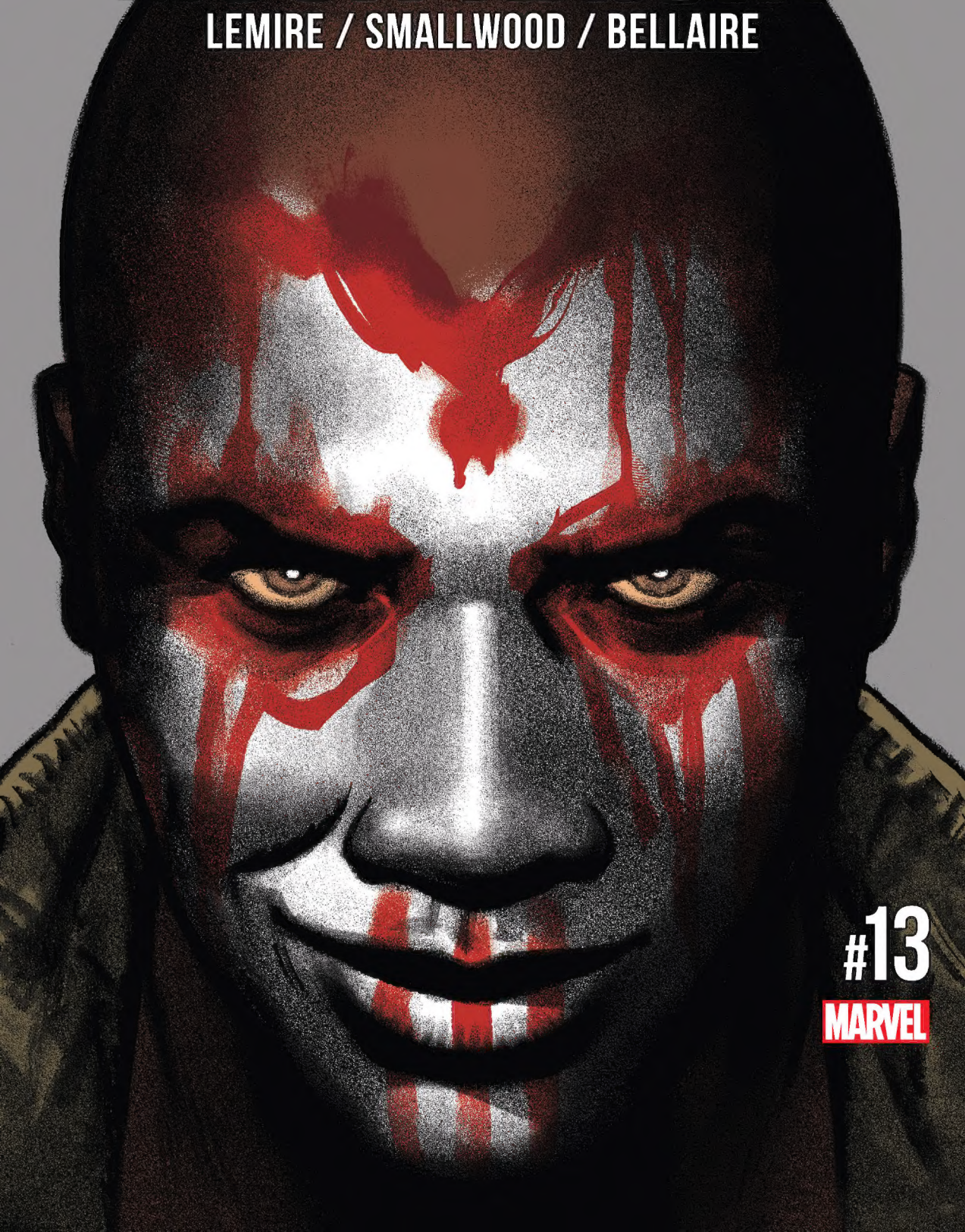


MOON KNIGHT™

LEMIRE / SMALLWOOD / BELLAIRE



#13

MARVEL

MERCENARY MARC SPECTOR DIED IN EGYPT UNDER A STATUE OF THE MOON GOD KHONSHU. IN THE SHADOW OF THE ANCIENT DEITY, MARC RETURNED TO LIFE AND TOOK ON KHONSHU'S ASPECT TO FIGHT CRIME FOR HIS OWN REDEMPTION. IN TIME, THE MANY DIFFERENT IDENTITIES HE HAD CAREFULLY MAINTAINED BEGAN TO SLIP OUT OF HIS CONTROL...AND SO DID HIS GRIP ON REALITY ITSELF.

MOON C KNIGHT



DEATH AND BIRTH: PART 4 OF 5

AFTER A CONFRONTATION WITH HIS ALTERNATE IDENTITIES WHERE THEY SEEMED TO DISAPPEAR FOR GOOD, MARC REALIZED THAT THE FINAL STEP TO BECOMING WHOLE AGAIN WAS TO KILL KHONSHU. EVEN WITH THIS MEASURE OF CLOSURE, MARC'S PAST—FROM HOSPITALIZATION FOR MENTAL ILLNESS TO A DISHONORABLE DISCHARGE FROM THE MARINES TO HIS ENTRY INTO THE DANGEROUS WORLD OF A MERCENARY—FOLLOWS HIM.

BEFORE FINDING KHONSHU, MARC WENT TO RECLAIM CRAWLEY FROM THE GOD ANUBIS—BUT ANUBIS REQUIRED A TRADE, SENDING MARC ON A JOURNEY TO FREE HIS WIFE ANPUT FROM THE OVERVOID. AND WHEN MARC FACED A BRUTAL DEATH, HIS RESCUE CAME FROM NONE OTHER THAN THE OTHER IDENTITIES HE THOUGHT HE HAD BANISHED—LESS PRESENT, BUT NEVER TRULY GONE.

NOW, MARC'S LAST AND MOST DIFFICULT FIGHT LIES AHEAD...

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ARTIST GREG SMALLWOOD

COLOR ARTIST JORDIE BELLAIRE

LETTERER VC'S CORY PETIT

COVER BY GREG SMALLWOOD

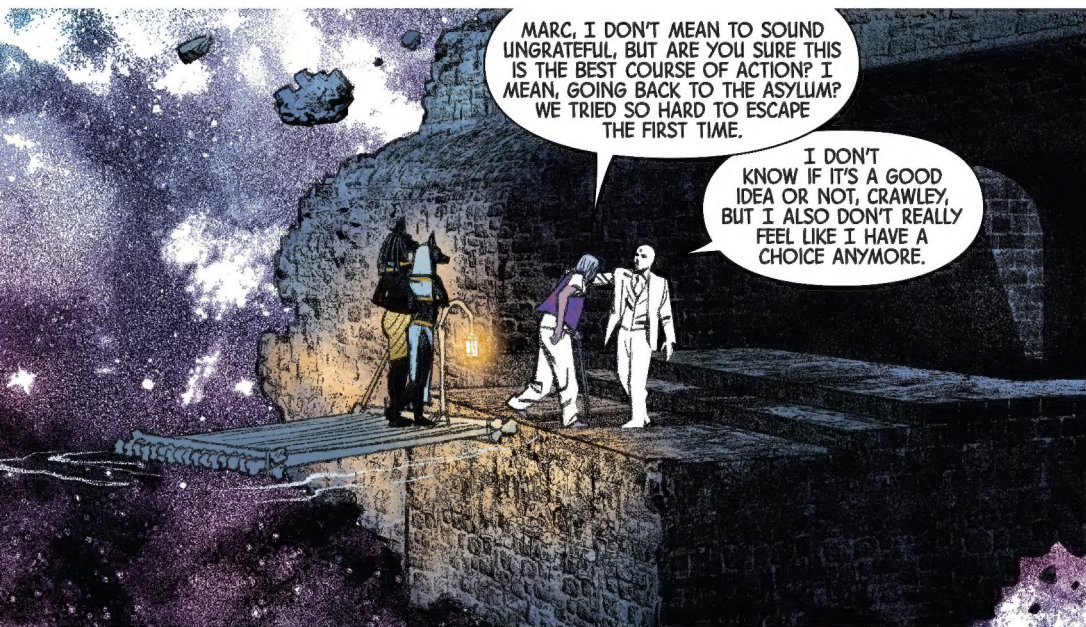
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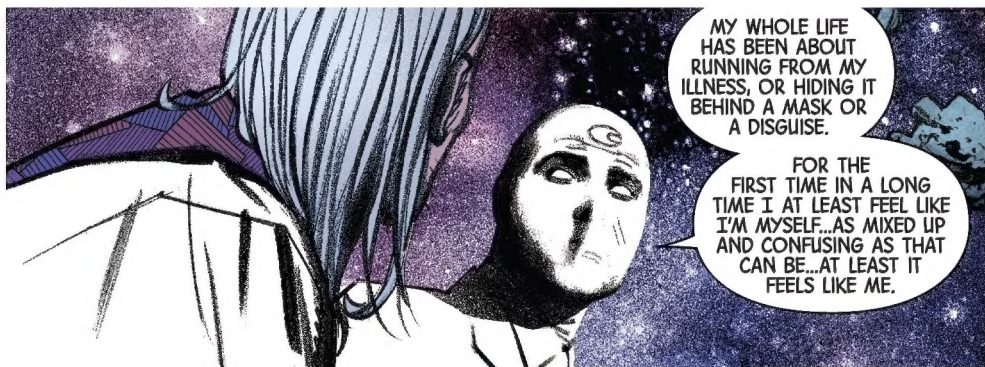
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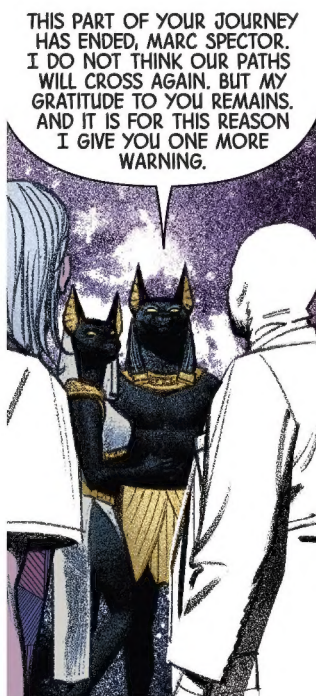
MARC, I DON'T MEAN TO SOUND UNGRATEFUL, BUT ARE YOU SURE THIS IS THE BEST COURSE OF ACTION? I MEAN, GOING BACK TO THE ASYLUM? WE TRIED SO HARD TO ESCAPE THE FIRST TIME.

I DON'T KNOW IF IT'S A GOOD IDEA OR NOT, CRAWLEY, BUT I ALSO DON'T REALLY FEEL LIKE I HAVE A CHOICE ANYMORE.



MY WHOLE LIFE HAS BEEN ABOUT RUNNING FROM MY ILLNESS, OR HIDING IT BEHIND A MASK OR A DISGUISE.

FOR THE FIRST TIME IN A LONG TIME I AT LEAST FEEL LIKE I'M MYSELF...AS MIXED UP AND CONFUSING AS THAT CAN BE...AT LEAST IT FEELS LIKE ME.



THIS PART OF YOUR JOURNEY HAS ENDED, MARC SPECTOR. I DO NOT THINK OUR PATHS WILL CROSS AGAIN. BUT MY GRATITUDE TO YOU REMAINS. AND IT IS FOR THIS REASON I GIVE YOU ONE MORE WARNING.



I SEE MANY THINGS DOWN HERE BELOW THE WORLD. AND I HAVE SEEN OTHERS COMING AND GOING...OTHERS THAT WISH YOU HARM. PERHAPS YOU SHOULD HEED CRAWLEY'S WARNING. IT IS NOT TOO LATE TO LEAVE THIS PLACE.



NO. THIS IS THE ONLY PATH FOR ME NOW.

VERY WELL. GOODBYE, MR. KNIGHT.

CRAWLEY,
CAN YOU FIND
GENA'S DINER FROM
HERE? SHE'LL BE
WAITING.

GENA? BUT--
I'M NOT LEAVING
YOU ALONE DOWN
HERE, MARC.

I KNOW YOU
MEAN WELL, CRAWLEY,
BUT I **HAVE** TO GO ALONE.
I ALREADY LOST **FRENCHIE**.
AND I LEFT YOU IN DANGER
ONCE. I WON'T DO
IT AGAIN.

BUT--

NO "BUTS,"
CRAWLEY. AND I KNOW
YOU PRIDE YOURSELF ON
YOUR ABILITY TO TALK THE
STRIPES OFF A TIGER, BUT
I'VE MADE UP MY MIND.
THIS IS HOW IT HAS
TO BE.



WILL--WILL I
SEE YOU AGAIN,
MARC?

I DON'T
KNOW.

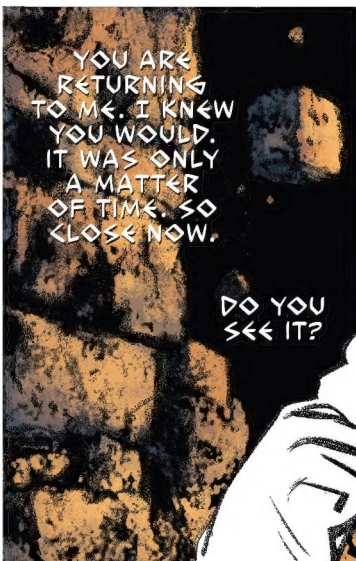
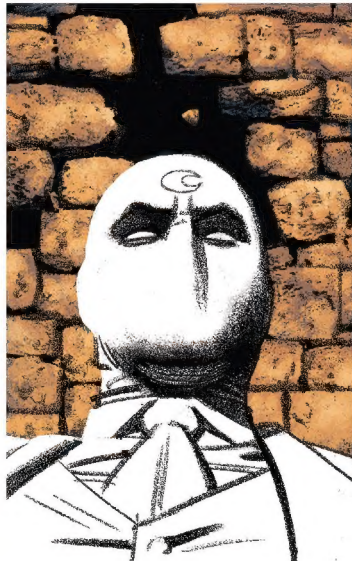


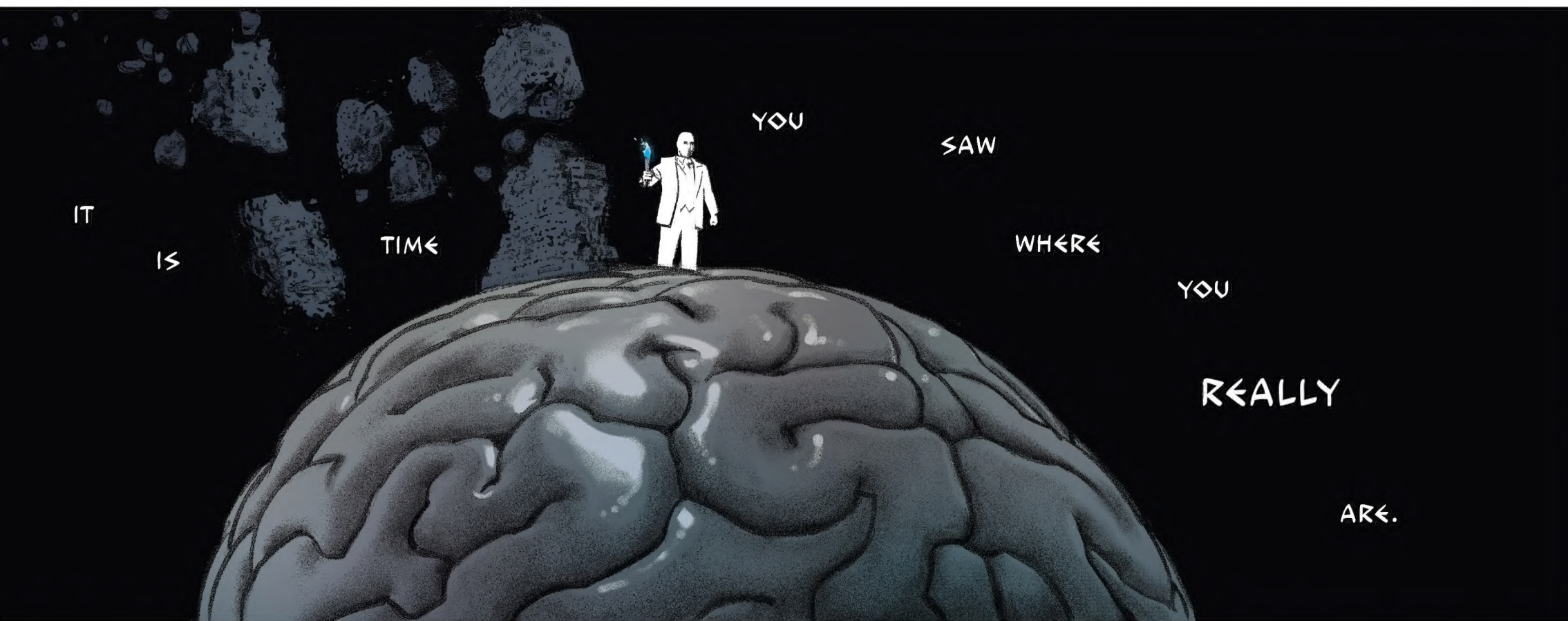
AND
CRAWLEY?

YES?

CALL ME
MR. KNIGHT.







NEAR THE SUDANESE-EGYPTIAN BORDER.



SOME YEARS AGO.



E.T.A.,
JEAN-PAUL?

WE'RE ABOUT
FIVE MINUTES OUT,
BUSHMAN. NO SIGN
OF TROUBLE AND
FLYING LOW ENOUGH
TO STAY OFF
RADAR.

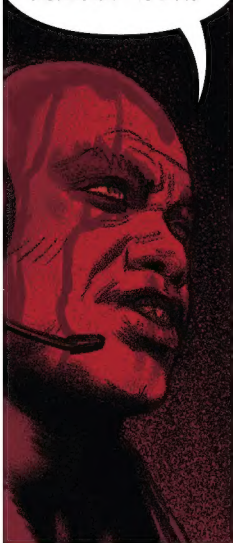
I STILL
DON'T KNOW WHY
WE'RE LOADED FOR
BEAR LIKE THIS FOR A
RAID ON AN
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
DIG SITE.



MY MEN
TELL ME THESE
ARCHAEOLOGISTS HAVE
FOUND SOME SORT OF
TOMB. SOMETHING OF HUGE
SIGNIFICANCE. YOU KNOW
WHAT THEY'LL DO TO
PROTECT THAT?

BUT THERE
ARE LIKELY NO
GUARDS. NO
SECURITY.

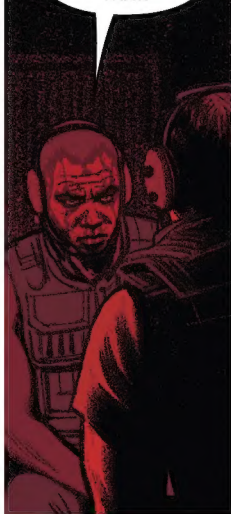
FEAR IS THE KEY,
SPECTOR. NO MATTER
THE JOB. YOU STRIKE
TOTAL FEAR INTO THE
ENEMY AND YOU'VE
ALREADY WON.



I GUESS, BUT
THESE PEOPLE ARE
INNOCENTS. LET'S
REMEMBER THAT. THIS
ISN'T A BUNCH OF DRUG
RUNNERS OR SOLDIERS
WE'RE GOING UP
AGAINST.



I'M THE ONE
WHO HIRED YOU,
SPECTOR. I RUN
THIS JOB. YOU
BEST REMEMBER
THAT.



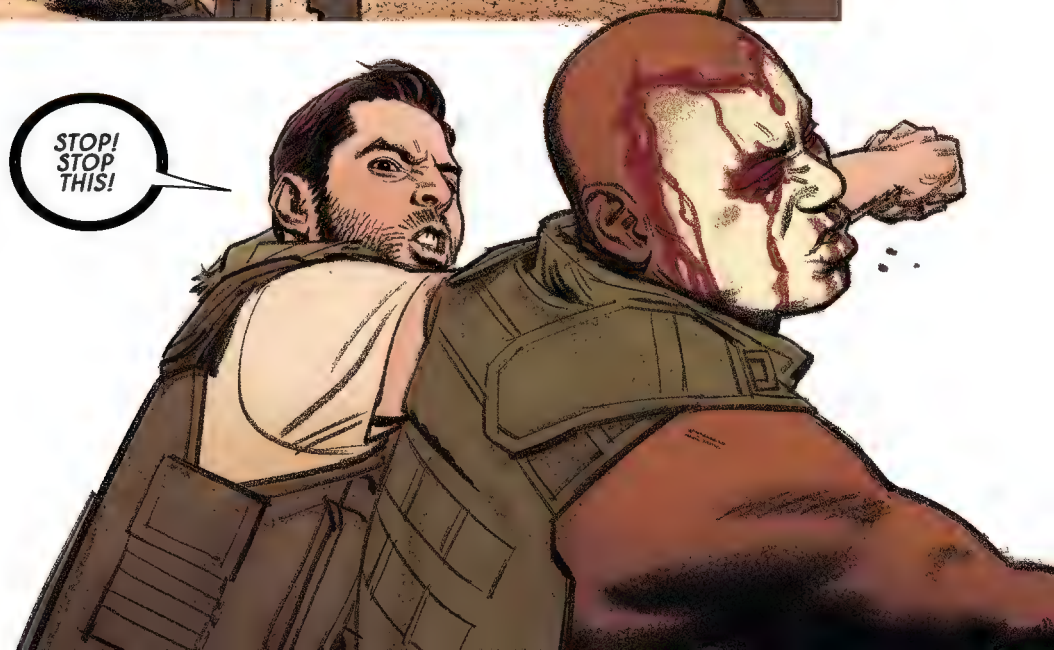
LOOK
ALIVE, MES
AMIS.

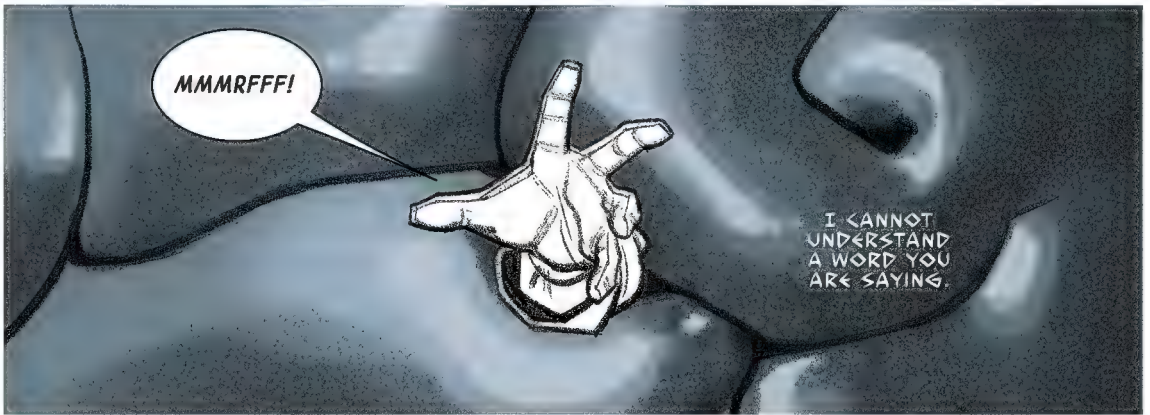




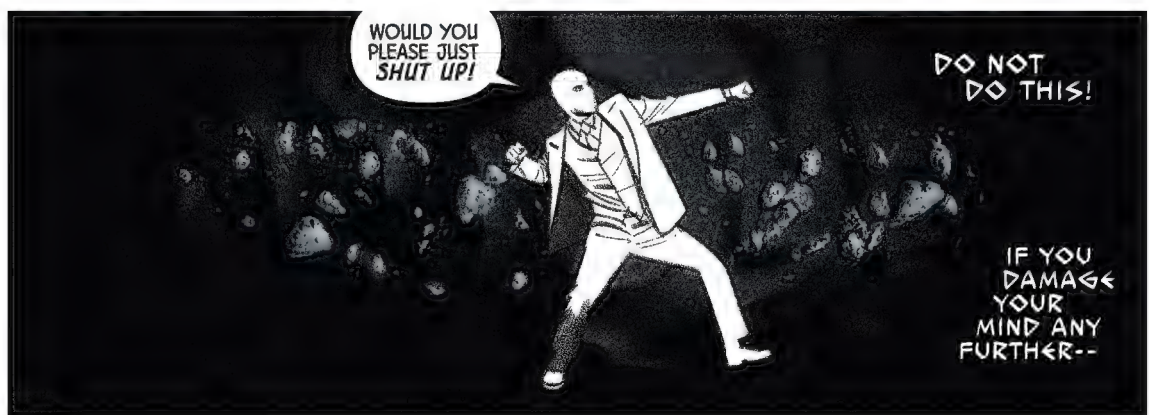






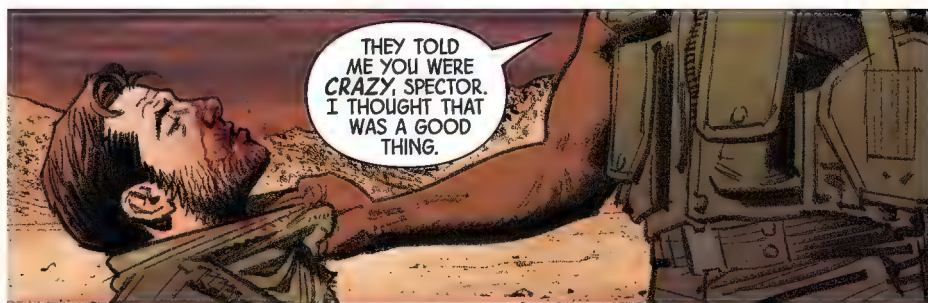




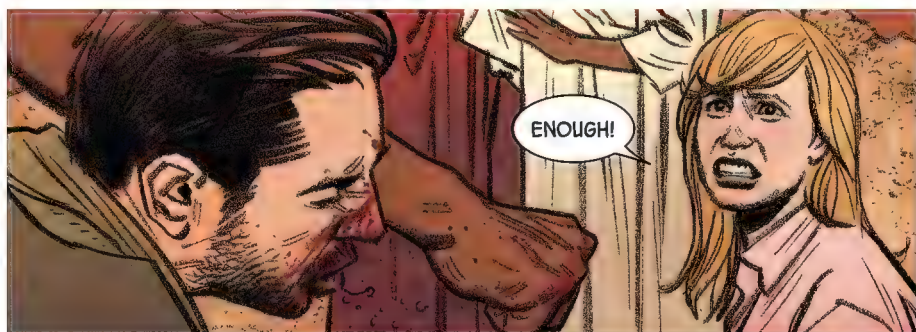


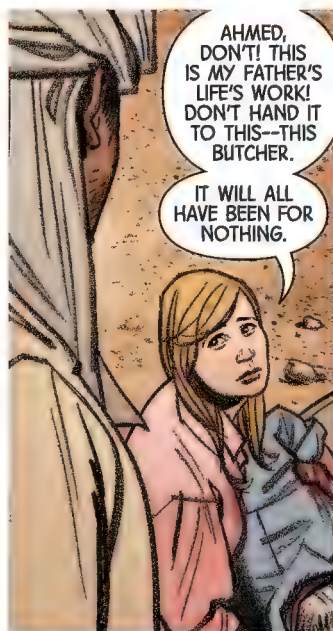






WHAM











NEXT: ENDINGS & BEGINNINGS.

MOONIE MISSIVES

Write to
mheroes@marvel.com and
mark your letters "OKAY TO PRINT."

I gotta tell ya, Moonies...I don't know if I'M ready for what's coming next! But you know what I am ready for? Letters! We got a lot, so let's get to 'em!

Dear Moon Knights!

I cannot believe what I am reading now--are my eyes deceiving me?! They can't deceive me because if they were, they wouldn't be able to see the masterpiece that is MOON KNIGHT. I have never been much of a Marvel fan, in fact I pretty much ignored most of their blockbuster movies, but Netflix originals *Daredevil* and *Luke Cage* increased my affection for Marvel tenfold. But neither *Daredevil* nor *Luke* nor even the big bad Punisher come close to Marc Spector's insanity that is creepily charming! Are powerful forces pulling the strings or is Marc making it all up? I have seen some similar stories that question the nature of our reality. Recently one has been *Westworld*, created by Jonathan Nolan. It is an enticing story full of mysteries, drama, action, and twists. The folks there might as well all be living on the Moon itself!

I hope that all goes well for this creative team and--hope never dies--I still wish Moon Knight could have a Netflix show! It may take quite a bigger budget than all of the current Netflix shows combined, but if it did end up happening, my happiness will be beyond description! OLD MAN LOGAN, *Animal Man*, ALL-NEW HAWKEYE, and all of Jeff's other great works also belong on my to-read list, ready to get devoured.

In this year 2017, I wish Jeff Lemire and the rest of the creative team a Happy New Year with lots of insanity, pancakes, and more insanity!

With love,
Timothy Nidorfer
Slovenia

Insanity, pancakes, and more insanity? You're speaking my language, Timothy! Here's my particular breed of pancake insanity: I put peanut butter on my pancakes! Try it! It's DELICIOUS! It would definitely be crazy cool to see Moon Knight show up on Netflix, but hey, how could they possibly top Greg Smallwood's beautiful madness? Let us revel in the Moon Knight that we have!

Dear MK team,

The first comic I picked up three years ago was MOON KNIGHT. I've been collecting all the single issues ever since. His emotional and mental health issues have always intrigued me. While other volumes have been very entertaining, this new series is the best so far. Thank you for taking the time to

tease apart Marc's world. I have to say issue #9 was incredible: from the artwork to the dialogue. I was happy and devastated while reading this issue. Each goodbye made me cry. I felt that I was accepting things as they were and letting them go with each scene. In my mind, Marc's character was finally vindicated.

Whoever decides to work on the subject of Marc's mind will have a hard time matching you.

Best,
Tiara
Chicago, IL

Tiara, you have great taste! Issue #9 is quite possibly my favorite issue of this run as well. I definitely got a little choked up myself. Although this next issue...boy howdy, it's gonna be something special!

Hello Moon Knight Team,

I have only been reading comics for about six years, but Moon Knight has been my favorite character from the very beginning, and your run has been some of the best comics I have read yet. I wanted to thank you for how you handle the discussion of his mental health. I have dealt with clinical suicidal depression for the last eight years, and have had a long road of treatment to recovery. I finally came off my medication a few months ago, after having a discussion with myself very similar to the one in issue #9 (though not so literally "with myself"). Reading that issue and that conversation hit me so close to home, I actually had tears in my eyes by the end. I just wanted to say thank you for all that you do in discussing this topic, and I hope you know that your work is connecting with people as more than just fans. It is an important conversation that you are creating, and you are doing it well. You are making a difference in people's lives.

Thank you,
Cade Bengert
Alberta, Canada

Oh wow, thank you so much for this letter, Cade! MOON KNIGHT #9 seems to have really affected people in a pretty powerful way. So glad to hear that you're doing better and that our comic spoke to you. That kind of personal connection is art at its most powerful, so letters like this mean the world to us.

Hi Jake,

Greg Smallwood does great work every issue, but I loved the double-page spread of MK floating through a scratchy Sienkiewicz-style medication space, beautifully enhanced

by Jordie Bellaire's amazing color palette.

I wrote to Bendis recently about the lack of positive Jewish characters in mainstream comics despite the fact that many of the golden and silver age creators were Jews. I asked BMB to create a positive Jewish character as a challenge to the rising anti-Semitism in America, the UK, Europe and all round this divided world of ours. I never realized that Marc Spector is a non-practicing Jew until I saw the young Marc's yarmulke in the issue #10 flashbacks. I too am a non-practicing Jew, but know what it is like to be increasingly marginalized as a minority, so I was heartened to see a positive portrayal in MOON KNIGHT. Understanding is something we need more of nowadays, whether it be mental health issues or different religions. Thanks to Jeff and Marvel for doing its part to promote understanding.

Cheers,
Bruce Marsh
QNS KOF TTB

I was thrilled when Jeff brought up going into Marc's backstory and referencing his Jewish heritage. There's a wide and interesting religious background to our Marvel heroes, and as a religious person myself, I'm always excited to see it brought up. I agree, Bruce, we could certainly use a nice, healthy dose of tolerance and representation these days, I'm glad we could do a little bit to help with that. Also, if you dug that double-page spread (I thought it was pretty incredible as well!), I hope you got a kick out of the wild spread this issue with Marc falling into his own brain!

Dear Team Knight,

I've never written a letter in response to a comic, but I just finished issue #10 and I have to write in, if only just to thank you. As both a Jew and a person who has spent a lifetime battling varying degrees of mental illness, the very existence of MOON KNIGHT means an incredible amount to me (and this run has just been absolutely fantastic). It has been a particularly tough two years, and having a "super hero" comic to turn to has made them easier, one Wednesday at a time. Issue #10 was particularly poignant for me--between the yarmulke, the scene at the doctor's door, the look on Marc's father's face when he is "introduced" to Steven Grant, and Moon Knight's own admission that he has been sick for a very long time and needs to get better--it was both heart wrenching and inspiring, a combination all art should aspire to. So congratulations on a great run, a future classic. And thank you for

sharing it with all of us.

Make Mine Marvel,
JT
Brooklyn, NY

JT in Brooklyn, you say?! Are you... me? What a MOON KNIGHT-ian twist that would be! Thanks for writing in with that beautiful letter, JT. Your kind words are greatly appreciated. Speaking of appreciation, Greg does such an amazing job with the big wild images and page layouts, sometimes I think his incredible subtlety can get lost. You are on point singling out that panel of Marc's father's face, I think it's one of the best single panels in the whole run. Greg and Jordie captured such an incredibly complex mixture of emotions perfectly in just that one image. It's pretty stellar work. I'm glad to hear you're loving the book, I hope we've continued to hit that high-water mark!

Dear Jeff, Greg, and Jake,

People in the letters section have been spot-on with their praise for this series. It's an enthralling read for longtime Moon Knight fans, and for persons such as myself who only recently got hooked with Ellis' stuff. Issue #10 cemented the series for me as a Best of 2016 recommendation. It is powerful both in content and in execution, delicately balancing the beautiful aspects of Marc's character (his Judaism, his mental illness, his relationship with Khonshu). This issue, even moreso than the others, is what I was hoping for when they announced Lemire on the title. It's similar to the energy and melancholy that he brought briefly to HAWKEYE, exploring through the comic medium the ways in which memories never really leave us, the ways in which they break us and remold us into who we are.

Frankly, Smallwood and Lemire are both on fire with this book. I don't mean to exaggerate, but there's a Moore-Gibbons level of synthesis on display. Every page packs so much punch, contains so much depth. Your fans are hooked not simply because they want to know what happens next, they want to see and take in the way that it happens. The sheer amount of artistic vision that both creators are bringing to this title is breathtaking.

And to top it all off, Lemire's been whupping butt all over the industry! How many excellent projects can a single person take on in the span of a single year? I guess we're going to find out! That he keeps putting out a book this good while writing scripts for countless other series on multiple publishers, managing an event here at Marvel, and doing art for a graphic novel seems to me almost supernatural. I'm concerned he's dipping into some sort of comics industry version of steroids. He's got so much on his plate at any given time, but every issue of this book feels so special and handcrafted that it's as if MOON KNIGHT is the only thing he's working on. I genuinely don't understand how he does it.

Make Mine Marvel,
Eli Boonin-Vail
Watertown, MA

You and me both, Eli! Getting scripts from Jeff on this book has been an absolute pleasure. I essentially read them three times: the first time as a fan excited to read what happens, the second time as an editor making sure everything works, and then the third time as a fan again, because they're almost always so flawless they need no notes. If they could bottle up what Jeff's doing here, every writer in comics would buy it. The same goes for Jordie, Cory, the whole team!

Jeff,

I really enjoyed issue #11 for what it was!
What was it, again?

Hard to tell, really. But I liked it!

Cheers,
Andrew J. Shaw

"Hard to tell," is, I think, pretty close to what Jeff was going for in this book. So...mission accomplished, Andrew!

Dear MK Team,

Here comes another greeting from Romania.

I only recently discovered Moon Knight through the last two runs, the current one and the Ellis/Bunn, and I found them to be the most thematically and artistically complex Marvel comics I have come across so far.

However, what drove me to write to you is Caesara's letter you recently published. She is right about the comics community in Romania, so you can imagine my excitement in discovering another MOON KNIGHT appreciator in this country.

I was wondering if you could forward her this e-mail so she can contact me if she so desires. We could work together on a MOON KNIGHT community or just talk about comics. I'd love to read her work.

Anyway, consider it and thanks for all your great work.

Cheerio,
Mihai K.

Oh man, if we could make a Comics Buddies connection in Romania through this letters page, that would be INCREDIBLE! Caesara, if you're reading this and want to put together the official Romanian Moon Knight Appreciators Club with Mihai, let us know!

Thanks for printing my letter. Sorry you couldn't access my cosplay photos. Being in I.T., I always assume links are better than attachments. Figured I'd follow up with the photos. :)

Thanks again!
Sam Dunham



YESSSSSS! LOOK AT THOSE ABSOLUTELY RAD COSPLAYS! Awesome stuff, Sam, thanks for resending this so we could grab 'em!

That's all for this ish, folks! But be sure you're here for the next one because... well, it's a big one. THE big one. You're gonna want to be here, TRUST ME.

Stay Weird!
-Jake T.

